

Records, Rewards, and Revitalization 2013 Conference Recap

TAMMY FLORES

What an amazing conference! This year really blew me away, and from what I have heard, you all enjoyed it as much as I did. This year we had 717 people at our conference, and a whopping 217 of them were First Timers! We have heard amazing feedback from those First Timers and that is what we are all about; setting up the NSA with enthusiastic and incredible people to continue to carry the torch forward. This conference really showed the strength of the National Stuttering Association, and I am so proud to be a part of this inspiring group of people. You all continue to impress me every year with your strength, courage, and ability to support each other throughout this journey.

We experienced so many remarkable moments, and I would be remiss if I did not point out a few of the highlights. **Trumaine McBride's** speech showed us of what it means to be resilient, and taught us about living with no regrets. He reminded us to never give up on an opportunity, such as saying your own vows at your wedding, because of stuttering. Our amazing first time parent **Julie Bourke** showed us what true love is in terms of her son, but also in terms of this organization. Our first commemorative coin celebrating 30 years of Annual Conferences, which sold for \$8,000, shows us how much people really care about and love this organization. We are continuing to change lives, and I thank you all for letting us do that. This is not to mention all of our fabulous presenters! We had 87 incredible workshops this year, and I cannot wait to see what is in store for next year.

This year we shattered a record during our Live Auction, raising an astounding \$101,000 for the NSA, and I cannot thank you all enough for donating to both of our auctions. Our Live Auction is our top fundraiser, earning the majority of the funding that we require to continue our work throughout the year – our ‘bread and butter’ if you will – and the NSA would not be able to carry on without these funds.

However, I cannot take credit for this conference by myself. I am blessed with an outstanding team, paralleled by none, and without them this conference could not have been possible. Thank you to **Melissa Lopez, Brandie Flores, Joan and Dave Ross, Aaron and Erica Perez, Jim and Lee Lowman, Tony Romano, Becca Liben, Mandy Finstad, Steph Coppin, Sarah Onofri, Nina Zito and Pattie Wood**. In addition, I'd like to thank our fabulous NSA Board of Directors, **Barry and Sindy Liben**, and **Lee and Nina Reeves** for all that they did for the banquet and closing ceremonies, as well as **Tom and Judy Kuster** for their top-notch recording services.

My biggest thank you goes out to each of you! Without you, none of this would be possible. While my job may not always be easy, it is each of you that makes it 100% worth it. The rewards and joy that I receive during this conference, as well as year round, keep me renewed and revitalized. I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2014 in Washington, D.C! 



Interview with *thisisstuttering's* Morgan Lott

Our own Steve Ernst was able to catch up with this year's conference guest speaker, Morgan Lott, and ask him a few questions. Read on to learn a little bit more about this conference favorite!

Steve Ernst: How did you begin making films?



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HELMS

Morgan Lott: In my elementary school years, a few friends and I made movies with my parents' VHS camera. We would film goofy videos, doing *The*

Crocodile Hunter spoofs, movie reviews, fake commercials, all sorts of fun stuff. My dad is in the film industry, so he always encouraged being creative with cameras. It wasn't until my senior year of high school, during my first video production class, that I considered film as something that I might want to pursue. My video production class completely jumpstarted my passion for film and led me to major in Cinema and Media Arts at Biola University a year later. That first video production class reignited the passion that was started so many years prior!

SE: Is this what you want to do for a career?

ML: I just completed a film degree and a senior thesis film (*thisisstuttering*), and I am approaching my "career" blindly; I have little to no idea what will happen in the future. I currently shoot wedding videos for income, but other than that, I have nothing lined up!

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www.WeStutter.org

I'm excited to see what God's got in store for the future, and I'm buckling up, because it's going to be a wild ride!

SE: Your film *thisisstuttering* covers issues that you currently face as a person who stutters. What kind of adversities did you face as a kid growing up? Any particular stories or turning points you'd like to share?

ML: A big point was simply the realization that I didn't speak like everyone else. I started going to speech therapy before I even knew why. My first name is Edward, but I prefer my middle name, Morgan. So every first day of school terrified me. My new teachers would call roll and, when they arrived upon "Edward Lott," I would have to speak up and say "I go by Morgan," except it always came out, "I go by Mmmmmmm mmmmmorgan." This only got worse in middle school and high school – instead of one teacher, I would have six, and I would have to bear this awful name correction many times over. I absolutely dreaded the first day of school. I would try to come up with ways around it, including emailing teachers beforehand or just going by Edward until I had the courage to correct them. Eventually I just had to accept it; I had to endure the pain, because every time I used a "work around," I was admitting my stutter was controlling this particular aspect of my life. I was intentional to not let my stutter define me and hold me back from anything and everything I wanted to do. I wasn't going to let my stutter run my life.

SE: The film features a few of your friends discussing their positive thoughts about your stutter. Have you gotten adverse reactions, and how did you overcome that?

ML: If people react negatively, they probably aren't going to end up being a good friend of mine! Real friends accept each other for who they are, so my good friends see my stutter as part of who I am. But yes, negative reactions are a given. Going back to the first day of school, teachers would sometimes react poorly (one story was told in *thisisstuttering*). People would sometimes laugh. People would sometimes mock. One time I was at a Denny's restaurant with a bunch of friends and I asked for the "ch-ch-ch-change" and this kid im-

mediately yelled "hahaha ch-ch-ch-change hahahaha!" To my surprise, everyone at the table gave him the stink eye. It was humiliating but it was cool to have people around me shoot him down immediately. In hindsight, the experience was something to laugh about.

Another more recent example is from my college days. One of the requirements of the undergraduate program at Biola is a public speaking class, the WORST class for someone with a stutter. I wasn't about to make an excuse to work around the class, though. I had the great idea to do my first speech on speech impediments! One of the most important aspects of a speech is catching the audience's attention right from the beginning, so to start my speech, I began with an intentional and embarrassing forced block. I couldn't get through five words. I put my head down on the podium and acted like I was giving up. I caught three people laughing and a classroom full of dropped jaws, including the professor. I then stood up and said, "Hello, my name is Morgan Lott and I want to talk about speech impediments." It was a very interesting experiment on a public display of stuttering.

SE: So would you consider the film another step for you in getting people talking and learning about stuttering? Is that something that is important to you?

ML: Absolutely! First, the film served as almost a final step in my own therapy. Much of the speech therapy that is documented in the film emphasizes the importance of confidence and vulnerability. Making a movie about it gives complete strangers a look into my deepest secrets. The making of *thisisstuttering* has been surprisingly therapeutic, because the aspect of my life that I have spent 22 years hiding is now publicly available and can be talked about in a public forum.

Second, increasing awareness of stuttering is an important part of the film, and *thisisstuttering* presents a 100% real account of stuttering that goes beyond the surface of the public eye. From what I've heard, people have no idea that stuttering is such an internal struggle, and *thisisstuttering* shows them stuttering isn't just a problem with the mouth; it highly influences confidence, personality, and all sorts of other internal aspects.

Third, I hope it serves as an encouragement for fellow stutters. I did not meet another stutterer until my sophomore year in college, so I really thought that I was alone in my struggle. *thisisstuttering* can show stutterers they are not alone and provide hope that a "normal" life is possible.

I hope that *thisisstuttering* gets people – stutterers and non-stutterers alike – talking about stuttering and how it affects them. Stuttering is often a taboo topic, and it's an incredibly awkward conversation when it comes out of nowhere. I want *thisisstuttering* to encourage and inspire, ease awkwardness, and begin conversations that we all need to have.

SE: When did you first hear of the National Stuttering Association, and what were you most excited about with the conference?

ML: I first heard of the National Stuttering Association when I was doing research for *thisisstuttering*. I had no idea there were associations, organizations, conferences and public resources for stutterers! Since hearing about the NSA, I have talked to a number of people who absolutely rave about it, and the conference was like nothing I'd ever been a part of before! I was most excited about being in a community of other stutterers, and I was not disappointed. It was a very eye-opening experience for me, and I was thrilled to attend.

SE: Does anyone else in your family stutter?

ML: Nope. I don't know of anyone, on either side of my extended family, who stutters.

SE: What is next for *thisisstuttering*?

ML: This is a story that needs to be told. We will be submitting to film festivals nationwide! Submissions cost money, so we will raise funds through Kickstarter, a crowd-funding platform. We're going to need all the support we can get! Once the Kickstarter campaign has launched, the NSA will share the information you need to get involved! In the meantime, follow *thisisstuttering* on Facebook and on my website at www.thisisstuttering.com to keep up to date with the film and all of its happenings! 📺

Congratulations to **Jody Fuller** on his recent publication in the latest in the series of 'Chicken Soup' books, entitled *Chicken Soup for the Soul: From Lemons to Lemonade, 101 Practical and Powerful Stories About Making the Best of a Bad Situation*. Jody has been an outstanding role model and advocate for people who stutter through his work as a professional comic, speaker, and soldier who works with organizations that want to develop the leadership skills needed to adapt and overcome.

NSA's own **Tammy Flores** and **Nina Reeves** were thrilled to partner once again with the **Special Kids Network** for their 14th Annual Celebrity Golf Outing! Special Kids Network is an independent non-profit organization that was created to provide funding for programs that help children and young adults with special needs. This annual event has featured many media and sports celebrities.

Congratulations to **Evan & Christina Sherman** on their July wedding! Evan serves as our Adult Programs Coordinator, and he and Christina are staples at our Annual Conferences. We wish them the best of luck in their new lives together!

Thank you to **David Friedman** and **Bill Collins** for creating and financing our new NSA lapel pins. From initial idea to production, these two have been dedicated every step of the way. Show your NSA pride by wearing yours! Purchase a pin today in the NSA Online Store for just \$5.

Upcoming Events

2013

October 26 :: Tempe, AZ
CEU/Family Fun Day

October 26 :: Greensboro, NC
Family Fun Day

November 2 :: Boston, MA
CEU/ Family Fun Day /Adult workshop

2014

February 1 :: Dallas, TX
CEU/Family Fun Day

February 22 :: San Diego, CA
Family Fun Day

February (TBD) :: Tampa, FL
CEU/ Family Fun Day

2014

July 2-6 :: Washington, DC
31st Annual NSA Conference

With You for a Lifetime

KENNY KOROLL, BOARD OF DIRECTORS VICE-CHAIR

Not sure about all of you, but I'm still in awe over the conference we've just experienced in Arizona. The impact that we had and the lives that we changed in such a limited time was simply amazing. The conference is indeed our main event, but staying involved in local chapters and regional events can keep the those feelings of empowerment going strong until we meet again next July in Washington, D.C.

The idea of creating the 30-year coin, initiated by **Lott Hughes**, **Dustin Linkins**, and **Jody Fuller**, as a fundraiser was just incredible! These three showed how initiative, creativity, and unselfishness can go a long way in helping the NSA to keep it doors open. Since the conference we have received several new fundraising ideas for next year including lapel pins and window stickers. We have also received countless questions on how people can contribute in other ways.

Please enjoy this conference edition of LETTING GO. The pictures and personal stories will stay with you for a lifetime, and serve as a reminder for us all that together we fight the good fight like no other. Always remember, IF YOU STUTTER, YOU'RE NOT ALONE! 🐶

Congratulations to our Award Winners!

STEVEN KAUFMAN

Cameron Francek | Volunteer of The Year

Cameron's *100StutterProject* has inspired others to advocate for their speech and received extensive media coverage in the *Detroit Free Press* and other outlets.

Steve Ernst | Youth of The Year

He is a constant fixture on the NSA TWST Google Hangouts as well as *StutterTalk*. He and **Miranda Smith** help provide teens with a safe place to speak out and a community of unconditional acceptance.

Julie Lawler North | Parent of The Year

Julie successfully raised two boys who stutter. As an SLP she empowers children to overcome a feeling of estrangement. Her oldest son, Ben, will attend The Catholic University of America with tremendous confidence, courtesy of the NSA.

Cincinnati | Tom Scharstein and Miranda Smith accepting for Chapter of The Year

This "rising star" chapter has transformed into a solid community presence. From making a young girl's Christmas experience special to volunteering, they serve as a role model for future chapters.

Landon Murray | RCC Of The Year

Landon has come a long way and has assumed a great deal of responsibility with professionalism and true dedication. (He is also engaged... Congratulations!)

Charley Adams | SLP Of The Year

Charley's approach helped one of his chapter members earn her Master's Degree in Speech Pathology, and the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association is stronger because of his leadership.

Tanya Banks | Chapter Leader Of The Year

Tanya goes out of her way to welcome new members to the Royal Oak, MI meetings and is an outstanding social coordinator for various chapter events!

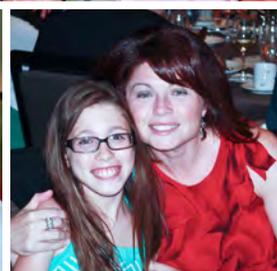
Aaron Perez | All Around 'Good Guy'

Aaron works tirelessly at our conferences, and he's always there when help is needed to make things run smoothly. We are so grateful to have him as a part of our NSA family!



We loved seeing each and every one of you in Scottsdale this year, and hope that you'll join us in Washington, DC in 2014!





All Because of the NSA

JOE GOTT

My name is Joe Gott. I am 53 years old, and a person who stutters. I never thought I would ever be typing the sentence I just did without feeling some sort of shame, and then without going into a deep depression.

Ever since I've been able to speak, I've had a stutter. My story is probably similar to others with teasing throughout grade school, high school, college, in every daily situation, and at home as well. There was no "safe" place to stutter. Job interviews turned into peaks of stuttering, and even one occasion of being told that I didn't qualify for the job because I can't speak normal. Despite my personal successes of attaining as Master's Degree in Information Technology Management, being married to an amazing wife, having three wonderful daughters, buying a brand new home, being financially successful, and more, I've still lived in a depression for most of my life. Any of the aforementioned of life's "Honor Badges" meant nothing because I didn't possess the one that others received from birth, and wanted the most – fluent speaking.

I've spent many years in personal counseling and on medication, just trying to manage my depression. But when it came time to do a presentation to the Board of Directors for my organization, I would put on a stuttering performance beyond all others. Shortly thereafter, I would go into deep depression because I was ashamed of my stutter and what it may have conveyed to others about me as a "defective" person. All of the counseling and medication reverted back to zero.

Two years ago, while in a state of depression, I was conducting an Internet search on stuttering with the desire to find something negative to support my feelings. One of the search hits was the National Stuttering Association. I read about the conference, watched the videos, and read the content, yet my mind said "Don't go there, you won't fit in there either." I was purposely and systematically destroying every relationship in my life in an effort to support my negative mindset. So I waited two more years before I registered to attend a conference. Yes, I was depressed (even suicidal) while I was registering, yet I did it, and I'm so happy that I did!

I was still in my mode of "self-preservation" at the conference by avoiding people, until

I finally felt that I could relax some thanks to several "Old Timers." The emotions I experienced at the conference were all over the place. One parent mentioned during the Closing Ceremony that her son had broken down one night and cried like she had never seen before. Oddly enough, I did the same thing that very night while alone in my hotel room. My heart hurt for him, because I didn't want him to let his stuttering control his perception of himself, like I had, by giving it full control of my thoughts about me. I saw the mom and her son at the closing dinner, and I told the boy that I cried the same way and the same night he did. As I handed

him the NSA coin that I had just purchased, I said, "From one stutterer to another." He smiled ear to ear and simply said, "Thank you." Not only was I finally healing, I was reaching out to help someone I didn't even know. All because of the NSA.

To everyone in the NSA who played a role in the conference, and to all who attended, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! The conference was the medicine that I needed. You literally saved my life. I have since reached out to my local chapter, and even volunteered to speak to students at a local university who are going through the SLP program. I don't know this "new" me, but I like him! 📧

Another Successful Research Symposium

VIVIAN SISKIN, M.S., CCC-SLP, BRS-FD

The 2013 Research Symposium, held in conjunction with this year's NSA Conference was a huge success! The Symposium attracted researchers, clinicians and consumers with a common interest in learning about cutting edge research in stuttering from experts around the world.

Invited speakers presented new findings relevant to understanding the possible causes and best treatments for stuttering. Professors **Soo Eun Chang** (University of Minnesota), **Pascal van Lieshout** (University of Toronto), **Jay Sasiskeran** (University of Minnesota), **Geoff Coalson** and **Courtney Byrd** (University of Texas – Austin), **Edward G. Conture** (Vanderbilt University), and **Shelley Jo Kraft** (Wayne State University), all addressed new evidence that stuttering potentially stems from neurologically-based limitations in linguistic and motor abilities to plan speech production, with additional influences of temperament as young children try to manage difficulties in talking.

Dr. Marie-Christine Franken, of Sophia Children's Hospital in the Netherlands, presented preliminary new findings from a nationwide treatment study that at least two major therapies used with preschool-aged children who stutter are equally effective in helping children who stutter speak more fluently. **Dr. Janet Beilby** of Curtin University

(Australia) provided data from a large-scale study investigating the impacts of stuttering both on speakers and their immediate family members, while **Professor J. Scott Yaruss** (University of Pittsburgh) presented information on the impacts of bullying and teasing on children who stutter. Discussions were moderated by **Professor Nan Bernstein Ratner** (University of Maryland), and included strategies to improve assessment, treatment and counseling in stuttering, as a result of new findings.

The NSA Research Symposium has been successful in bringing professionals and consumers together to improve both treatment and public understanding of stuttering. Plans are underway for a clinical forum in conjunction with the 2014 NSA Conference, with another Research Symposium to be held in subsequent years. 📧



Interview with Trumaine McBride



Trumaine McBride is 27, is from Houston, Texas, and is currently signed as a cornerback for the New York Giants. He is also a person who stutters! Trumaine joined the NSA for the 2013 Conference in Scottsdale and gave the keynote address to a packed audience on Saturday evening.

Steve Ernst: In your keynote speech, you said that you had never spoken in front of such a large group. What was going through your head while you were in front of the mic?

Trumaine McBride: The majority of my talking is done at football camps. My first time giving a written speech was at the NSA conference. Initially I was extremely nervous! Once I saw how welcoming the crowd was towards me though, my nervousness went away instantly. Also, I figured what better place to give my speech than at the NSA conference. Stutter away, Trumaine!

SE: What is it like stuttering as a professional football player and speaking to the media? Has it gotten easier for you over time?

TM: It has definitely gotten easier for me over time. I'm very comfortable speaking to the media now. I inform reporters ahead of time that I stutter. I do that because I don't want it to be a shock to anyone.

SE: Have you ever spoken to your teammates about stuttering? What was their reaction?

TM: I've spoken to a few of my former teammates about my stuttering. Everyone is cool with it. It doesn't stop anyone from talking to me. Most of the time, guys will say they never noticed. I'm not sure how true that is. Maybe they say it just to make me feel good!

SE: Was your first NSA conference experience what you expected going in?

TM: It was actually way better than I expected! I absolutely loved it! Everyone I met was great! I had a blast!

SE: What did you take away from your time at the conference?

TM: The conference was a very humbling experience for me. I had no idea I would inspire and touch so many people with my story.

SE: What was your favorite part of the conference?

TM: My favorite part of the conference was when I got the opportunity to meet and talk with others. I met a lot of great people! It was great getting the opportunity to get to know others that are exactly like me. I felt an instant bond with everyone I encountered. It was a great overall experience. I loved being amongst others I could directly relate to.

SE: Will we be seeing you in Redskins territory next year? What are you most excited about with the 2014 conference in Washington, DC?

TM: Yes, I plan on being in DC! Hopefully more of my family will be able to attend. I would love for them to meet all of the wonderful people of the National Stuttering Association. 

Lifelong Memories

JEFF MADDIX

During my time at the 2013 NSA Conference in Arizona, I made many lifelong memories. From pool parties lasting into the early mornings to sunsets on the golf course, these were memories that I will never forget. One of the more impactful memories made was a conversation with a first time attendee, New York Giants Cornerback Trumaine McBride.

It was during the Live Auction portion of the banquet that I was able to speak with Mr. McBride. I, along with friends **Steve Ernst** and **Seth Whitesel**, waited to speak with him while other NSA attendees spoke with him and grabbed pictures. When he was free we introduced ourselves and like many before us asked for a quick photo, which he was happy to do. I brought up the two things I knew that he and I would have in common - stuttering and a love for football. We talked about the stuttering aspect of football, which would be the struggles of answering questions during interviews and the toll it took on him. We also talked about general football. We asked him question such as, "What's the loudest stadium you've ever played in?" and "Who's the best quarterback you've ever played against?"

My favorite part of the conversation was when he spoke about how because he was undersized at 5'9" and how he had had many doubters throughout his football career and how he used their skepticism as motivation. Mr. McBride never let the cynics hold him back from his dream of one day playing in the NFL. After speaking with him for 15-20 minutes and saying goodbye, not only did I walk away knowing I had a new favorite football player but more importantly I walked away knowing I made a new friend. 

CHAPTER NEWS

DAVID BLAZINA



Chicago, IL Metro North

The chapter met with a great group of twelve people and enjoyed hearing everyone's input on using the telephone and a discussion on **Jim McClure's** paper, "Making Peace with the Phone or, Curse You, Alexander Graham Bell". **Kristin Chmela**, an SLP, indicated that it is sometimes helpful to walk around and incorporate some movement while talking on the phone, a post on the NSA listserv suggested watching yourself in a mirror while using the phone, and David added that it can be helpful to make easier calls first as "practice" before making a more difficult call. Overall, the group shared a lot of helpful advice.

The group's bike ride planned at Busse Woods was rained out, but the group did enjoy a casual lunch together at Lalo's Mexican restaurant in Schaumburg (pictured above), thanks to **Larry Stack** arranging the event.

Timonium, MD

Six persons attended the "Speaking Freely Group", one of whom was a student presenting her honors research project on the "personality of stuttering." The student did an excellent job as she discussed how her research ultimately negated her hypothesis linking personality type to stuttering, but she—and the group—learned a lot along the way. **Dr. Ron Gallop**, a local speech pathologist, was there to support the student.

Following the presentation members participated in activities that were new to the group. The usual introductions became a chance for members to introduce each other, ask questions about work, family, hobbies, and more. The group had a good time and got to know more about one another in the process. Afterwards, attendees had fun with telling an impromptu story where one person

began a story and then passed it along to the next person and so on. Each person could take the story in any direction—and they did. The story covered quite a bit, including rabbits and magic tricks, gardens, rabbits turning into basketball players, and then turning into flying squirrels. It turned out to be a fun experience for speaking and for letting your creativity and imagination soar.

Finally, each member shared the best advice they had been given regarding their speech. This included, "Don't be hard on yourself", "Love and be patient with yourself", "It's all about communication and that has very little to do with fluency", "The best teacher is failure", "Nobody cares (about your speech), they just like you" and "You could be doing something else with your life (dream big and don't impose limits on yourself)".

Greenville-Spartanburg, SC

The NSA's Greenville-Spartanburg, SC group met on June 6th at the home of **Jake and Kathy Ohlinger**. Pictured (below) are **Jean and Allan Brown** of Black Mountain, NC (they traveled over an hour to attend), **Jake and Kathy Ohlinger**, and **Tina and Barry Jimmer**son of Greenville as well as their daughter, **Emily**. In the background is *Lady Liberty* by **Peter Max** from the 2000 NSA Convention in Chicago. The group enjoyed a fun meeting of sharing stories, telling jokes, and seeing who could stutter the best!



Brooklyn, NY

The last meeting of the Brooklyn, NY chapter was 20 people strong, including three first timers (**Alina, Danny, and Fior**). Guest leaders **Bilal** and **Stavros** kicked off the meeting by asking about positive stuttering experiences. One member volunteered that she has been stuttering more over the past weeks because she has been speaking more than ever.

Marc W. came up with the idea of writing a letter to yourself when you are in a positive and empowered place, one that you can read to scrape yourself off the floor when the chips fall in a different way. This led to the groups first ever "homework assignment". Everyone in attendance agreed to write him or herself a letter over the next month, thinking of what they would like to say to themselves in the dark moments. Maybe that they are capable of that job or that they can freely socialize and stutter at the same time. Or simply that they "are OK." The most important thing for participants to remember is that it is OK if they don't feel positive or strong right now, just remember of what they want to feel and believe.

Corpus Christi, TX

The initial meeting of the Corpus Christi Chapter of the NSA hosted nine people consisting of three families. As a way to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, the theme for the meeting revolved around the important

role that teachers often play in the lives of people who stutter. The meeting started with an icebreaker of each person giving a “best excuse of the week” for why someone might be stuttering more than usual. Next, the phrase “Teacher Appreciation Week” was written on the dry erase board and the group wrote down a word related to stuttering with each of the letters from the phrase. Some of the topics discussed included: “Who was a teacher that was inspirational to you and why?” “What are some qualities that make a good teacher?” “What could be the benefits of doing a classroom presentation about stuttering?” and “What would you say to your teacher if you saw him or her today outside of the school setting?” Those questions led to great reflection on how teachers have played such an inspirational role in the lives of people in general.

Boston, MA

The Boston Chapter once again spoke to the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions graduate class (an affiliate of the Massachusetts General Hospital) – the largest class that their group has ever presented to in the many years that they have been doing this! The chapter also brought the largest group of presenters this year, including five first timers from the Boston and Boston North Chapters. The students were very attentive and asked many good questions. One student told the professor that this was the most valuable class of her graduate program. **Anthony Bashir** thanked the chapter for sharing their life histories of stuttering and invited the group to return again next year. *(photo below)*



NSA 2014: Red, White, Blue & YOU!

Get ready to show off your voice and exercise your right to stutter freely and proudly because next year we’re going to be in the heart of all things that are patriotic. We’re coming to America’s capital city, Washington, DC for our 31st Annual Conference to be held July 2–6, 2014!

Washington is “The American Experience,” and is one of the most frequently visited cities in the world. Not only is it the center of our government, but it offers attractions that very few cities can match: the power and prestige of The White House. The halls of The Supreme Court, where landmark decisions have shaped the course of history. The National Mall, which is the most famous park in the country, gives you chance the get up close and personal with The Lincoln Memorial, The Jefferson Memorial, and The Washington Monument. The Smithsonian Museum and National Archives offers access to some of the most priceless artifacts that have helped our country become the world leader that it is today. But that’s only a glimpse of how beautiful this city really is!

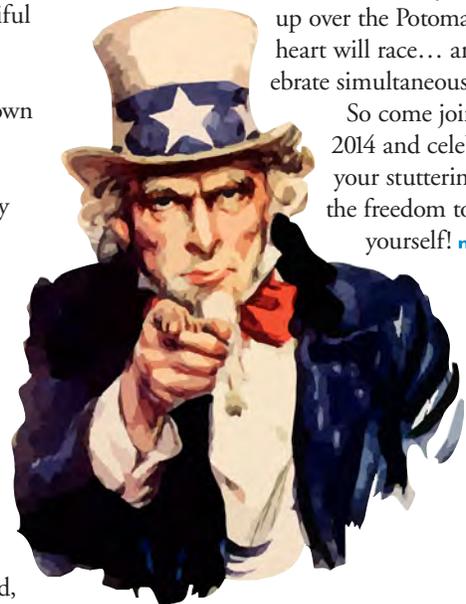
Our conference hotel for 2014 is the Renaissance Washington, DC, Downtown Hotel, which is right in the heart of the city. Located in the Penn Quarter neighborhood and right next to Gallery Place – Chinatown, you will have easy access to numerous restaurants and nightlife, as well as the usual amenities the NSA hotels provide: a gym, lavish guest rooms, and a spa. Go bowling at Lucky Strike, marvel at the beauty that is Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum, or assimilate yourself into the world of espionage at the International Spy Museum. If you are a news junkie and want to know all about the way our history has been told,

the Newseum is the place to do it. But the best part about this location - you can leave your car at home! The Washington subway system, known as the Metro, goes everywhere within the city, and will drop you off no more than two blocks from all the major sights. A quick Metro ride will bring you everywhere you want to be!

There are simply no shortage of activities that will be accessible to you at this conference. Do you want to explore the Capitol with a privately guided tour? You can. Are you a nature lover and want to see exotic animals? The National Zoo is close by. You can get your shopping fix by going to Georgetown and exploring the boutiques. If you love sports, you can see one of the quickly rising baseball teams: The Washington Nationals, with Bryce Harper and Stephen Strasburg. There will also be the possibility to see a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle: The 4th of July fireworks over the National Mall! When you hear the loud smash of Tchaikovsky’s “1812

Overture” as the sky lights up over the Potomac, your heart will race... and celebrate simultaneously!

So come join us in 2014 and celebrate your stuttering and the freedom to be yourself! 



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